mer Protection Council under the Act has been set up on 9-10-1987 to advise the Administration of Delhi on steps to be taken to promote the interests of consumers. So far nine meetings of this Council have been held wherein problems of consumers are being discussed.

Drive against foodgrain hoarders

1628. SHRIMATI SARLA MAHESWARI :

SHRI M. D. SALIM :

SHRI ASHIS SEN :

SHRI MOHD. AMIN :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be Pleased to state : (a) whether Government have prosecuted foodgrain hoarders caught during the recent drive launched on several places of Centrally administered areas including Delhi; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) and (b) State Governments and U. T. Administrations are engaged in taking action against persons found to be indulging in hoarding and other malpractices in respect of essential commodities under various control orders issued under Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and similar relevant legislations. Delhi Administration has reported that routine checkings were conducted on the basis of specific complaints/information leading to filing of FIR against 6 traders during the period 1-7-92 to 23-11-1992 or holding stocks in violation of law.

Liberalisation of terms of Indian Investment Overseas

@1629. DR. SANJAYA SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have announced liberalised terms and conditions for Indians investing overseas and in off-shore companies; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ?

@. Previously unstarred Question 1254, transferred from 1st December, 1992.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Salient feajturures of the new guidelines are :

(i) Introduction of a new automatic approval procedure for investement upto US $ 2.00 million of which cash remittances is limited to US $0.5 million.

(ii) The procedure at (i) above would also be applicable for proposals to enhance the equity base of existing joint Ventures/ wholly owned subsidiaries.

(iii) Greater operational freedom granted to Indian oversees ventures in respect of altering its share capital structure, undertaking a different activity, participating in the equity of another concern and promoting a second generation foreign concern.

(iv) Second hand or reconditioned indigenous machinery may also be exported towards Indian equity contribution.

Export of Tea

1630. SHRI RAMNARAYAN GOSWAMI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) what is the total quantity of tea exported by the country during the last three years; year-wise; and

(b) the quantity of tea exported from Assam, West Bengal, Nilgiri and other places ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED) : (a) Total quantum of tea exported from India during last three years is given below :

Year	Qty. of tea exported M. Kgs.
1989-90	211-76
1990-91	199-17
1991-92	210-39 (Estimated)

(b) Export of tea from India by origin of production of different tea growing states/districts cannot be qualified because teas are exported mainly in blended form either in bulk or packet. In the process, teas of different origin are mixed and thus at the point of export, it is not possible to identify the origin of teas.

Import of P.V.C.

1631. SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that manufacturers of indigenous polyvinyl chloride (P.V.C.) and other down-stream petrochem projects and synthetic rubber are presently threatened by cheap imports from European Economic Community;

(b) if so, whether Government have received any representation from indigenous manufacturers in this regard, if so, the details thereof along with details of similar cases of dumping cheap imports detrimental to indigenous manufacturers in petro chemicals and drug sectors; and

(c) the details of action taken/proposed by Government to protect the indigenous manufacturers by raising import duties on such products as anti-dumping measures ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED) : (a) to (c) : Complaints alleging dumping of (i) PVC resin from Argentina, Brazil, Republic of Korea, Mexico and USA; (ii) Styrene Butadiene Rubber from Japan and Republic of Korea; (iii) Bisphenol-A from Japan, and (iv) Palystyrene from Republic of Korea have been received.

Anti-dumping investigations on imports of PVC resin, Styrene Butadiene Rubber and Bisphenol-A have been initiated.

A decision on the imposition of anti-dumping duty can be made only after the designated Authority, who conducts the investigations, has submitted his findings on the existence, degree and effect of dumping and injury to the domestic industry.

National Development Plan for Export of Leather

1632. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJI RAO SHINDE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be peased to state :

(a) whether Government have formulated an ambitious Export National Development programme to capture 10 per cent share in global leather market in the next eight years:

(b) if so, the details thereof and year-wise phasing of its action plan;

(c) the details of incentives provided to manufacturers and exporters along with technological and technical upgradation infrastructural facilities proposed to be provided for the proposed and additional employment potential likely to be generated as a result thereof; and

(d) the details of potentially international export markets identified ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSEED) : (a) to (d) The Government has drawn up with UNDP assistance, a National Leather Development Programme for the integrated development of the industry so as to enable it to face the challenges in the national and international market. The programme is to be implemented over a period of four years. The programme is specifically designed to tackle the critical gaps in the industry particularly in the fields of training and technical manpower, design and product development, development of supporting industries, effluent treatment and control and strengthening of export capability. Improving the image of the Indian products is one of the major concerns of the programme.

No specific export target has been adopted under the Plan.